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REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 5-9 and 14-18 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 7-9 are independent and each has been amended herein. Dependent Claims 14-25 have been added.

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 were finally rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patent 6,416,533 (Gobin et al.); Claim 6 was rejected as being unpatentable over Gobin in view of US Patent 5,139,496 (Hed). In light of the foregoing claim amendments and the following discussion, each of the rejections is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. In particular, each of the independent claims, Claims 1, 7, 8 and 9, has been amended herein to recite that a structure is disposed within the outlet lumen to maintain its shape.

Gobin fails to teach or suggest a catheter system or method in accordance with the amended claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the pending application is patentable over the art of record and prompt review and issuance is accordingly requested. Should the Examiner be of the view that an interview would expedite consideration of this Preliminary Amendment or of the application at large, request is made that the Examiner telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney at (908) 518-7700 in order that any outstanding issues be resolved.

Respectfully submitted,


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